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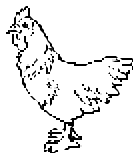
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the major terminal markets were unchanged in the West but higher in the Central and Eastern region when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiment for the holiday week was still reported as fully steady to firm as plants were still on curtailed operating schedules. Retail demand was not all that active, but usually noted as at least seasonally moderate. Demand from fast food outlets was active with some locations still not filling orders due in part to the reduced schedules. In the parts structure, trading was clearing wings and tenders, balance of items were in a workable position. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/30/02-01/04/03 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A (Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
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Delivered to First Receivers

Chicago	50.00-53.00	47.00-61.00	51.83	24
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Los Angeles	67.00			
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New York	54.00-57.00			
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Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	59.00-62.75	48.00-64.00	61.71	79
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 61.75 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
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846	54.00-66.50	61.58
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Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	167.00	1,073
BREASTS - B/S	140.50	3,267
BREASTS - WHOLE	66.50	1,077
THIGH MEAT - B/S	53.50	733
LEG QUARTERS	17.50	6,503
WINGS	52.50	2,575

THIS INFO. IS SUPPLIED BY THE GA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S PLTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE

MIDWEST Preliminary majority prices into Chicago were 4 cents higher from last Monday's final majority. Trade sentiment on whole birds was fully steady to firm. Offers of whole fryers and WOGS were limited but mostly adequate for current needs. Retail demand was light to moderate and noted as disappointing following the holiday and snowfall in some Midwest locations. Floor stocks in a full range, in close balance to fully adequate. Sizes were desirable. Supplies of parts items adequate with wings and boneless skinless breast in the closest position. Trade sentiment was steady on breast and leg items, fully steady to firm on wings.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Demand was seasonal good as plants are generally on reduce processing schedules. Interest was active from fast food outlets. Supplies were a Major factor on markets with floor stocks reported in close balance to short of full trade needs. In the parts structure, breast items, and wings were clearing easily, thighs were adequate but moving, and balance of items were generally sufficient. Live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to fairly good entering the weekend. Offerings of the 3 pound birds were in a tight balance. Although, the larger sizes were slightly more available. Retail and distributive movement was light to fair. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, breast items had increased in availability. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings remained the best item and continued to clear.

WESTERN Preliminary majority prices were unchanged from last Friday's levels. Trading reported for next week's deliveries were at unchanged prices on regular commitments with new negotiations at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings were generally adequate. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good, best for parts. Dealers anticipated light to moderate weekend carryovers because of weather related late deliveries. The market tone was steady to fully steady on parts with white meat items in the strongest position.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Southern California – whole body 99, whole body seasoned 97, whole split 98, Cornish hen 12 count case 1999, roaster 118, boneless breast 169, boneless breast IQF 4# 999 and 3# 599, split breast 97-117, whole breast 89-99, leg quarters 10# bag 280-490, wing 10# or more 79, wings IQF 2.5# 248 and 5# 499, thigh 87, drumstick 87, 8 pieces fried drumstick and thigh 368, 8 piece fried mixed 349-399, 50 piece fried mixed 2399, 100 piece fried mixed 4799, 150 piece fried mixed 7199, 250 piece fried mixed 11999;

Colorado – whole body 79, whole cut-up 99, Cornish hen 2 for 500, boneless breast 299, boneless breast IQF 4# 999, wing IQF 4# 396, 50 piece fried mixed 2499, 100 piece fried mixed 4899, 250 piece fried mixed 8226, 500 piece fried mixed 13499.

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly moderate. Seller offerings were in close balance to short of immediate needs. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were very heavy when combined with operations planned for Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 55 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. In the parts complex, wings were in good balance and clearing satisfactorily. Other items were generally sufficient for trade needs.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	51-67
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WEIGHTED AVERAGE	57.60
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NO. OF BOXES	7,720
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CUMULATIVE	12/23/02-12/27/02	55.66
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	12/24/01-12/28/01	51.21
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NO. OF BOXES	12/23/02-12/27/02	30,980
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	12/24/01-12/28/01	36,500
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*8 of 8 plants reporting.

DEC 26

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 27

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE			(000)	RANGE			(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	575	118.00-135.00	125-130	129.49	551	121.00-140.00	126-134	130.32	2,026	129.86
TENDERLOINS	126	112.00-180.00	112-120	118.41	231	112.00-180.00	120-130	125.28	403	124.54
BREAST - LINE RUN	75	66.00-70.00	66-68	66.53	78	67.00-70.00	-	67.38	246	66.93
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				152	65.51
LEGS	89	20.00-32.00	21-22	22.88	90	20.00-32.00	21-23	22.98	355	22.92
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	360	13.00-16.75	14	14.08	390	14.00-18.00	14-15	14.41	1,590	14.31
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	570	15.00-22.00	17-18	17.53	1,347	15.00-24.00	17-19	18.29	3,997	18.03
WINGS (WHOLE)	305	45.00-52.00	-	50.62	318	45.00-60.00	52-55	52.56	1,233	51.12
WINGS (CUT)	317	60.00-69.00	62-66	64.84	295	62.00-70.00	64-66	65.53	1,022	63.62
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				273	33.23
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				153	34.71
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				80	55.00

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS*****
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR DEC 26, 2002 F.O.B. DOCK.

TRADING FOR DEC 27, 2002 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**TODAY'S****5-DAY****RANGE****AVERAGE****RANGE****AVERAGE****AVERAGE**

38.00 - 41.50

39.91

38.00 - 42.00

40.15

39.92

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was fair to moderate as dealers assumed product to cover weekend needs. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient and had increased in availability. Legs and leg quarters were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were the best item and continued to clear briskly. Retail and distributive draw was lackluster. The market tone was fully steady on wings and about steady on the balance.

TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG		WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	DEC 27 WEEKLY	
	TRADING*				TRADING*				WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	125-130		123.40	201,400	125-130		126.68	456,560	127.02	1,286,930
TENDERLOINS	105-110		109.84	46,320	105-110		110.28	133,075	110.25	319,750
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64		67.21	169,640	63-64		70.06	149,240	68.48	646,880
BREAST - LINE RUN	63		66.20	103,040	63		63.97	141,680	64.18	494,280
LEGS	31-32		34.28	52,880	31-32		28.90	364,920	29.60	916,820
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18		17.42	325,197	17-18		18.31	376,025	17.77	1,635,348
DRUMSTICKS	21-22		28.00	73,140	21-22		26.73	143,160	26.95	408,960
THIGHS	20-21		32.46	31,080	20-21		29.80	101,720	31.41	201,350
B/S THIGHS	62-63		58.49	66,520	62-63		64.30	92,920	61.71	276,050
WINGS (WHOLE)	49-50		52.90	50,070	50-51		57.36	186,360	53.04	526,790
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12		12.19	48,370	10-12		12.00	40,800	12.12	158,210
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35		32.06	14,440	30-35		31.20	10,920	32.30	53,140
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65		64.17	13,200	60-65		60.52	32,130	62.76	92,060

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL	AVG		ACTUAL	AVG
	12/27	12/26		WTS	12/25		WTS
ALA	4,433	3,292	Holiday	1,791	Holiday	4.67	3,608
ARK	6,871	5,005	Holiday	948	Holiday	4.25	4,931
DELMARVA	3,115	2,302	Holiday	1,042	Holiday	4.99	2,258
KY-LA-TN	1,786	1,457	Holiday	225	Holiday	4.99	2,263
MISS	3,170	2,733	Holiday	1,858	Holiday	4.75	2,663
NC	3,398	2,151	Holiday	2,659	Holiday	6.12	2,405
TEXAS	3,120	1,656	Holiday	1,759	Holiday	4.59	1,759
TOTAL	25,893	18,596	Holiday	8,791	Holiday	4.86	19,887
MON-FRI	74,426(A)						102,504(A)

Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 27-Dec-02 and 28-Dec-02 is estimated to be 38,739,000 up 29.81 percent from a week ago and down 23.8 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,842,000; last year 50,823,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 28-Dec-02 is estimated to be 107,535,000 head down

30 percent from a week ago, and down 7 percent from a year ago

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(L.A. AREA)**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	89-91
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	75
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-94
	DRY PACK	96-102
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104
	DRY PACK	113
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	92-98
	DRY PACK	
DUCKS		152-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 14-Dec-02 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	18,360	17,535	36,372
Avg Weight	3.70	4.74	6.26
% of total /1	25%	24%	50%

COMPARISONS

Last week	22,187	19,492	39,713
Avg Weight	3.81	4.71	6.14
% of total /1	27%	24%	49%

Same week, yr ago /2	16,831	18,672	25,932
Avg Weight	3.55	4.58	6.18
% of total /1	27%	30%	42%

To date/2002	1,269,842	1,117,090	2,052,611
To date/2001	1,525,603	1,332,768	2,146,858

1/May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 21-Dec-2002 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
THOUSANDS					
HEAD	152,854	1,782	1,442	3,224	434
AVG WT	5.07	3.37	7.60	5.26	6.60
LAST WEEK	154,894	1,829	1,342	3,171	461
SAME WK YR AGO	159,450	1,942	1,419	3,361	492
AVG WT	4.95	3.23	7.78	5.15	6.30
TO-DATE/2002	7,878,649	88,473	72,137	160,610	21,251
TO-DATE/2001	7,834,427	90,978	70,660	161,638	25,712

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 144.4 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.7 million head or 10.3 million head more than or 107% of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: DEC 24, 2002

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL POULTRY

NO SALES TO REPORT DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 23-DEC-2002
DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	140	146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	122-126	123-127
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	53-58	56-58
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	63-85	65-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was moderate to at times good for holiday needs. Weights were desirable. Schedules part time this week with more holiday schedules planned for next week. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$.35-.50, livers at \$.75-1.70, and feet at \$.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 23-DEC-2002

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	116-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 16	156.0	151.3	103% 5.29
23	151.5	146.2	104% 5.16
30	116.9	145.5	80% 4.98
DECEMBER 7	153.8	146.7	105% 5.13
14	156.8	146.7	107% 5.09
21	154.7	144.4	107% 5.07
YEAR TO DATE	7973.2	8000.3	100%
DECEMBER 28		140.8	
JANUARY 4		142.4	

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

W/E	12/28/02	12/21/02	% CHG	12/29/01	% CHG
Broilers	107,535	152,854*	-30	115,281*	-07
Cattle	525	649	-19	513*	+02
Hogs	1,580	2,168	-27	1,528*	+03

Under Federal Inspection
* ACTUAL

Effective January 3, 2003 the Eastern Region, North Central, and South Central Light Live Type Hen reports will no longer report light live hen prices in cents per pound, generally for slaughter within the next 10 days. The report will reflect producer costs in cents per bird for light type hen removal. The change is in response to requests from egg producers, hen buyers, transporters and processors to reflect current industry hen removal practices.

EASTERN LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was no better than fair and mostly unaggressive. Offerings were at least adequate for the reduced processing schedules. Movement of finished product was moderate and well cleared. The undertone was generally steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices unchanged. Offerings fully adequate to mostly ample with heavy movement noted as producers market spent hens to a variety of end users. Demand was light to moderate. Schedules part-time for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of leghorn fowl. Slaughter schedules were reduced. Finished sales had slowed but had cleared standing inventory. Trade sentiment was only steady.

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were unchanged on both light and heavy canners due to extremely light movement. Demand was in a full range and trading was very limited. Supplies and offerings were in close balance to short and well cleared. The undertone was generally steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH OUT FREIGHT COST	
LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
20.5-25 MAJORITY 21.5-22.5	31-35 MAJORITY 31-33
CENTS/POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED	
LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
21.5-26.5 MAJORITY 23.5-24.5	33-37 MAJORITY 33-34

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Slaughter schedules were curtailed this week due to the holidays. Offerings were adequate for current needs.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was mostly light to moderate for the adequate but reduced offerings. Processing plants were less than normal due to holiday schedules. Finished product supplies were about adequate and clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was generally steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Negotiations were too few to report prices. Interest for heavy hens was no better than moderate. Finished sales were only fair with schedules reduced post-holiday. Trade sentiment was about steady.

LIVE TYPE HENS

CENTS PER LB., DAY OF NEGOTIATION, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0-0	(1)
Eastern Light	0-0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0	(2)

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE FOLLOWING WEEK

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(2)
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading		

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

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	Recorded	(323)260-4676	

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES WEEK ENDING 12/21/02	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR</u>
EGGS SET	200,669	208,836	-04
CHICKS PLACED	163,911	170,266	-04

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 201 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 21, 2002. This was down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 4 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 21, 2002. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 21, 2002 were 8.49 billion.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 1-Feb-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 150.4 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 149.5 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 155.7 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 158.1 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 57.10 CENTS PER POUND.

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 29-Dec-02

CLASS	<u>CURRENT WEEK</u>	<u>PREVIOUS WEEK</u>
	12/29/02(1)	12/21/02
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	111,777(2)	158,055
LT HENS	948	1,942
HVY HENS	757	1,491
TOTAL	113,482	161,488

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 29-Dec-02 is 144.4 million head compared to 161.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 112.0 million head or 32.4 million less than estimated available. For week of 05-Jan-03 the estimated available is 140.8 million head.